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District  
Herefordshire

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ANNUAL REPORT

on the

STATE of the PUBLIC HEALTH  
for the Year  
1950

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# Staff of the Public Health Department

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Medical Officer of Health	...	...	M. J. PLEYDELL, M.C., M.D., D.P.H. (Terminated duties on 31st Oct., 1950)
			O. M. HOLDEN, G.M., M.D., M.B., D.P.H. (Acting Part-Time). (Appointed 13th Nov., 1950).
			L. N. GOULD, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (Commenced duties on 29th Jan., 1951).
Clerk	...	...	G. PROSSER.
Sanitary Inspector	...	...	G. E. BULL, M.S.I.S., C.R. San. I. (Telephone: Kingsland 11)

Public Health Office: 4, CHURCH STREET, LEOMINSTER.

Telephone No.: Leominster 95.

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## *To the Chairman and Members of the Leominster and Wigmore Rural District Council*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1950, which has been compiled in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 112/50.

During the third and fourth quarters of 1950 there was a small outbreak of Whooping Cough which was confined to children under 15 years of age. Nine cases occurred in infants under one year but there were no deaths. Two cases of Poliomyelitis occurred in adults over 30 years of age during the latter half of the year and one case proved fatal.

Diphtheria Immunisation statistics for the country show that over nine million children in England and Wales have now been immunised against diphtheria during the last 10 years. As a consequence, the annual deaths have been reduced from 2,800 to about 95 and cases from 55,000 to less than 2,000 for the country.

A drop of 27,000 immunisations during the first half of 1950 coupled with observation that because of the vast reduction in diphtheria parents become less alive to the dangers of the disease, prove that renewed efforts must be made to sustain the campaign if valuable ground is not to be lost.

During the year, 10 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, giving a total of 74 cases resident in the area. For a basically agricultural community, this figure is higher than I would wish to see.

The water supply to the area remains mainly from wells with very few piped supplies. A certain number of unsatisfactory samples will occur as is evident from your Sanitary Inspector's report, thus stressing the need for frequent and regular sampling.

It is pleasing to record that 24 permanent and 25 temporary houses were completed during the year. The close relationship between bad housing and such medico-social disease as Tuberculosis has often been proved and it is to be hoped therefore that the provision of 49 dwellings by the Authority during one year together with the housing programme for the future will ultimately bring down the incidence of this disease.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Mr. Bull, your Sanitary Inspector, for his very considerable help and co-operation throughout the year.

L. N. GOULD,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

## SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) ... ..	94,101
Population ... ..	10,550
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) according to the Rate Books	3,237
Rateable Value ... ..	£47,920
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£188 12 8

### EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR:—

		Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS (Legitimate) ...	...	159	88	71
(Illegitimate) ...	...	13	5	8
	TOTAL ...	172	93	79
STILL BIRTHS (Legitimate) ...	...	7	4	3
(Illegitimate) ...	...	—	—	—
	TOTAL ...	7	4	3
DEATHS ... ..	...	132	67	65
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	...	—	—	—
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE	...	...	...	...
YEAR OF AGE (Legitimate) ...	...	11	7	4
(Illegitimate) ...	...	—	—	—

### COMPARABLE DATA FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, 1950:

Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population) ...	...	16.3
Birth rate for England and Wales ... ..	...	15.8
Still Birth rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population) ...	...	0.66
Still Birth rate for England and Wales ... ..	...	0.37
Death rate (per 1,000 of the estimated resident population) ...	...	12.5
Death rate for England and Wales ... ..	...	11.6
Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ...	...	63.9
Infant Mortality rate for England and Wales ... ..	...	29.8

## SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratory facilities are available at the County Public Health Laboratory. Since the end of the year the Laboratory has moved from the County Offices to new premises at the County Hospital, Hereford.

### CLINICS

Under the County Council and Regional Hospital Board scheme the following Clinic facilities are available to residents in the district:—

#### SCHOOL HEALTH AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

Minor Ailments Clinic ...	Monday and Friday, 10 to 11 am.
Orthopaedic Clinic ...	Tuesdays (by appointment)
Speech Therapy Clinic ...	Wednesdays (by appointment)
Child Psychology ...	Thursdays (by appointment)
Vaccination ...	First Friday of each month, 11 a.m.
Infant Welfare Clinic ...	Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m.
Dental Clinic ...	Fridays, 2 to 4 p.m.

All the above clinics are held in the annexe at the Leominster Cottage Hospital.

Venereal Diseases: At the County Hospital, Hereford, on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Orthopaedic After-Care Clinic: Organised on a voluntary basis and held at the Hospital annexe.

The schemes also provide for Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Paediatric, Ear, Nose and Throat and Eye Clinics. Children are referred to these Clinics as and when required, on the recommendation of the School Medical or Infant Welfare Authority, or at the request of the Medical Practitioner.

The object of the Minor Ailments Clinic is to give treatment for minor medical conditions before they develop into anything more serious and require the time and attention of the child's own doctor. It is thus preventive in nature. The clinic also serves a useful purpose in that regular supervision can be maintained over children with defects—such as visual and orthopaedic defects—and is thus of assistance to the Education Authority.

I am indebted to Mr. G. E. Bull, Sanitary Inspector to the Council, for the following statement (Section C to E) furnished under the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations.

## SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND INSPECTION

### WATER SUPPLIES. LEINTWARDINE.

The well at Leintwardine which was sunk during the year 1949 has proved to be satisfactory. Samples of the water have been taken at regular intervals and results have been satisfactory. Chlorination is still being carried out. A further pump of the same capacity has been installed in the pump house, but instead of being electric driven is petrol driven, to be used when the electricity supply fails.

The Filtration plant recommended has not yet been installed owing to an alteration in the plan for supplying a greater area around the village.

### SHOBDON

A standpipe was erected at the top end of the village to replace the village pump; the water to this standpipe is being obtained from the R.A.F. supply at Byton.

### WATER SAMPLING

158 Samples of water were taken and sent to the Laboratory at Hereford for analysis with the following results: 104 Satisfactory; 54 Unsatisfactory. The major part of the district is served by wells, only a few parishes being favoured with a piped supply.

Wigmore	...	...	62 houses on standpipe
Adforton	...	...	25 houses on standpipe
Brampton Bryan	...	...	24 houses and school on main supply
Leintwardine	...	...	136 houses and school on mains
Kinton Supply	...	...	10 houses on standpipe
Whitton Supply	...	...	11 houses on standpipe
Pump House	...	...	7 houses on standpipe outside pump house
Shobdon	...	...	11 houses on standpipe
			25 temporary dwellings on mains

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage Disposal Works on the Housing Sites caused some trouble during the year. This has now been remedied and frequent inspections are now made of the plants. The remainder of the district is much the same as in previous years.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS

Pollution of the river at Brimfield was reported during the year.

### REFUSE COLLECTION

House to house collection throughout the district is carried out by the Local Authority and this is working satisfactorily. Further areas were included into the scheme.

### DISINFECTION ON ACCOUNT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Twenty-two inspections and re-inspections were made in connection with infectious disease and disinfection was carried out at 12 houses.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Inspections have been made under various Acts and Orders and under enactments governing Meat and Foods.

Inspections under	Number	Informal Notices served	Statutory Notices served	Notices Complied with
Housing and Public Health Acts	325	115	4	104
Factories ... ..	53	3	—	3
Milk and Dairies Orders ... ..	23	—	—	—
Bakehouses ... ..	26	2	—	2
Food Premises ... ..	203	—	—	—
Schools ... ..	12	—	—	—
Water Supplies ... ..	158	30	—	26
Infectious Disease ... ..	12	—	—	—
Knackers' Yard ... ..	15	1	—	1
Hop-pickers' Quarters ... ..	24	2	—	2
Totals	851	153	4	138

## FACTORIES

Fifty-three Inspections have been made at the factories with and without mechanical power in the district. The factories without mechanical power are small generally, only employing two or three persons. Three Informal Notices were served for minor defects. On the whole the regulations are carried out satisfactorily.

## INSPECTIONS UNDER THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1.—Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	6	15	—	—
2.—Factories not included in 1, in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	14	36	2	—
3.—Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises ... ..)	1	2	1	—
TOTAL ... ..	21	53	3	—

## Cases in which defects were found:

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness, S.L. ... ..	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding, S. 2 ... ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temp., S. 3 ... ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilations, S. 4 ... ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of floors, S. 6 ... ..	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences, S. 7 ... ..	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ... ..	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ... ..	1	1	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ... ..	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ... ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	3	3	—	—

## NOTICES ISSUED

Informal	...	151
Statutory	...	4

## DEFECTS REMEDIED

The following list relates to major defects only, which were remedied, or in connection with which repairs were carried out:—

Roofs	...	...	...	24	Dangerous Walls	...	...	13
Dampness	...	...	...	15	Cooking Accommodation	...	...	14
Floors	...	...	...	17	Pumps Repaired	...	...	16
Drains	...	...	...	49	Dirty Dwelling House	...	...	3
Wells	...	...	...	40	Hop-pickers' Quarters	...	...	2
Pantries Provided	...	...	...	10	Defective Privies	...	...	16
Stairs Repaired	...	...	...	12	Wash Coppers Repaired	...	...	10
Windows Repaired	...	...	...	16	Chimneys Repaired	...	...	7
Baths Fitted	...	...	...	18	W.C.s Provided	...	...	23
Septic Tanks Const.	...	...	...	27	W.C.s Repaired	...	...	5
New Sinks Fitted	...	...	...	25	Doors Repaired	...	...	5
Spouting Repaired	...	...	...	15	Defective Cesspools	...	...	6
Plastering Repaired	...	...	...	13				

## SECTION D.—HOUSING.

Number of Council Houses built by the Local Authority in 1950 were:—

Permanent brick 24. Temporary 25.

The number built by private persons:—

Permanent brick 3. Temporary Nil.

## INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	140
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	...	...	325
(2) Number of dwelling houses found not to be, in all respects, reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	115

## ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES DURING THE YEAR:—

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	4
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—			
(a) By Owners	...	...	4
(b) By Local Authority	...	...	Nil

## VAN DWELLINGS

There are several dwellings in the district. Most of the permanent type are situated in Abbey Lane, Leintwardine, and have their own water supply and drainage. The remainder are of a temporary nature and are privately owned. These generally obtain their water from the nearest dwelling and use Elsan Chemical Closets.

## CAMPING SITES

When camping does occur in the district it is only for a short period.

## SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Twenty inspections were made at the various food shops in the district. Two Notices were served for limewashing and these were complied with. 793½ lb. of various kinds of foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption as under:—

Tinned Meat	...	...	22 lb.	Butter	...	...	8 lb.
„ Vegetables	...	...	55 lb.	Jam	...	...	4 lb.
„ Milk	...	...	124 lb.	Cheese	...	...	68½ lb.
„ Fruit	...	...	8 lb.	Meat	...	...	60 lb.
„ Soup	...	...	6 lb.	Tinned Fish	...	...	438 lb.

No Central Slaughtering is carried out in the District.



SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES, ACCORDING TO AGE

DISEASE	AGE OF PATIENT														Total
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-40	Over 40	Unknown	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	9	5	8	8	7	7	10	4	...	...	...	...	...	66
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	12
Pneumonia	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	3	...	14
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION

The following figures are presented through information supplied by the County Medical Officer.

Number of children at 31st December, 1950 who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1936).

								Total Under 15	Estimated Mid-Year child population, 1950		
Age at 31. 12 50	Under 1 50	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14		Under 5	5-14	Total
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i.e. Born in year	1950	49	48	47	46	41- 45	36- 40				
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	—	53	95	106	123	598	601	1576	934	1554	2488
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These figures indicate that 40.4% of the child population under five years of age has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 41.4% at the end of 1949. 77.2% of the child population of 5-14 years has been immunised against diphtheria as compared with 72.5% at the end of the previous year. To sum up, 63.3% of the children under 15 years of age has been immunised compared with 60.7% for the year ending 31st December, 1949.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of 1950, the Tuberculosis Register contained the names of forty-six males and twenty-eight females who normally reside within the district.

During the year, ten new cases were notified, nine on account of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and one because of the presence of the disease in part of the body other than the lungs.

During the same period, two deaths of persons suffering from Tuberculosis occurred, four recovered, and one was de-notified.

The following figures give a comparison of the number of persons suffering from Tuberculosis in each of the Local Authority districts in Northern Herefordshire:—

Prevalence of Tuberculosis per 1,000  
of the estimated resident population.

Bromyard Urban	...	...	7.3
Bromyard Rural	...	...	4.9
Kington Urban	...	...	9.6
Kington Rural	...	...	9.1
Leominster Borough	...	...	7.0
Leominster & Wigmore Rural	...	...	7.0
Weobley Rural	...	...	10.1

#### CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

			Males	Females	Total
1.—Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	1	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	1	—	1
8. Measles	...	...	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	2	2	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	1	—	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	2	2
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	5	5	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	1	—	1
16. Diabetes	...	...	1	1	2
17.—Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	8	14	22
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	2	1	3
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	1	2
20. Other heart disease	...	...	18	16	34
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	2	—	2
22. Influenza	...	...	2	—	2
23. Pneumonia	...	...	3	4	7
24. Bronchitis	...	...	5	2	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	2	1	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	—	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	3	—	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	1	1	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	7	9	16
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	—	1
34. All other accidents	...	...	—	—	—
35. Suicide	...	...	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—	—
All causes					132